

ABSTRACT

A truck mounted attenuator includes an interface structure comprising a pivot mount at a first location and a bearing surface at a second location vertically spaced from the first location. The pivot mount is adapted to be pivotally mounted to a pivotable truck component and the bearing surface is adapted to slidably engage an understructure of the truck. A backup structure is pivotally mounted to the interface structure at a third location and is engaged with the interface structure at a fourth location spaced from the third location. A crash cushion is supported at least in part by said backup structure. This crash cushion can be implemented as described in detail below to provide carefully tailored decelerating loads on the impacting vehicle. In other aspects, a truck outfitted with an impact attenuator and a method for mounting a truck mounted attenuator on a truck are also provided.